

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BUENOS 03193 261534Z  
ACTION SY-05

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 SYE-00 SSO-00 /016 W  
-----058728 261537Z /43

O 261436Z APR 78  
FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5495

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUENOS AIRES 3193

DEPT FOR A/SY/CC/TAGS; A/SY/FO

E.O. 11652 GDS  
TAGS ASEC, OTRA, AR  
SUBJECT WORLD CUP SECURITY

REF: STATE 106141

1. EMBASSY REPORTS REFLECT A MAJOR DECLINE IN TERRORIST ACTIVITIES FROM FEB 77 UNTIL THE PRESENT, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF OCT 77 AND MAR 78. DURING THESE TWO MONTHS THERE WAS AN INCREASE IN TERRORIST ACTIVITIES OVER PRECEDING MONTHS, PROBABLY ASSOCIATED WITH DATES THAT ARE OF PARTICULAR SIGNIFICANCE TO THE TERRORISTS: MARCH 24, THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE MILITARY COUP, AND OCT 27, PERONIST LOYALTY DAY. CURRENT ESTIMATES OF TERRORIST STRENGTH REFLECT APPROXIMATELY 450 TO 500 MONTONERO COMBATANTS, OF WHICH 150 ARE OUTSIDE OF ARGENTINA, AND APPROXIMATELY 200-275 MEMBERS OF THE ERP, OF WHOM ONLY 20 ARE CONSIDERED COMBAT CADRE. TERRORISTS FOR THE MOST PART HAVE BEEN INVOLVED IN SMALL, DISJOINTED OPERATIONS AGAINST SOFT TARGETS, MOST NOTABLY ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS WITHOUT GUARDS AND BUSINESS EXECUTIVES.

2. SECURITY OFFICIALS BELIEVE THE MONTONEROS ARE PLANNING A SPECTACULAR DURING THE PERIOD OF THE WORLD CUP. THEIR ACTIVITIES WILL BE DIRECTED AT ATTRACTING WORLD WIDE PUBLICITY, POSSIBLY BY DESTROYING THE COLOR TV  
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BROADCASTING SYSTEM, INTERFERING WITH THE SATELLITE COMMUNICATION SYSTEM, OR ANY OTHER TACTIC THAT WILL ATTRACT WORLDWIDE ATTENTION. THEY DO NOT BELIEVE THE TERRORISTS WILL INITIATE ANY ACTION THAT WOULD BE HARMFUL TO THE ARGENTINE SOCCER PUBLIC OR OVERTLY INTERFERE WITH THE MATCHES THEMSELVES.

3. DURING THE EARLY PART OF 1977, THERE WERE BOMB ATTACKS AGAINST PUBLIC PLACES SUCH AS THE SHERATON HOTEL, LA CABANA, A WELL KNOWN RESTAURANT, THE POLO GROUNDS AND OCCASIONALLY A MOVIE THEATRE. HOWEVER, THERE HAVE BEEN NO RECENT REPORTS OF SUCH ACTIVITIES, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF BOMBS PLANTED ON RAILROAD TRACKS DURING MARCH 1978. THESE LATTER INCIDENTS CAN BE ATTRIBUTED TO A THREATENED RR STRIKE. OVERALL, WE PERCEIVE NO GENERAL SECURITY THREAT THAT WOULD AFFECT THE AVERAGE SOCCER AFICIONADO FROM THE US, ALTHOUGH THERE IS ALWAYS THE POSSIBILITY THAT ONE COULD BE PERIPHERALLY INVOLVED IN A TERRORIST INCIDENT.

4. OVER THE PAST TWO YEARS THERE HAS BEEN NO INDICATION OF TERRORIST TARGETING OF USG PERSONNEL AND WE DO NOT ANTICIPATE ANY IMMEDIATE CHANGE IN TERRORIST POLICY IN THIS REGARD. HOWEVER, AS THE TERRORIST CELLS ARE WORKING WITHIN A CONCEPT OF FREE TARGETING, WITH GREAT INDEPENDENCE AND LIMITED GUIDANCE, IT IS CONCEIVABLE THAT A CELL COULD ATTEMPT TO TARGET A PROMINENT AMERICAN WHOSE PRESENCE MIGHT BE HIGHLIGHTED BY THE ARGENTINE MEDIA. TO A GREAT EXTENT IT WOULD DEPEND ON THE PERSON, THE AMOUNT OF PUBLICITY AND HIS ACCESSIBILITY.

5. THIS ANALYSIS IS PRIMARILY BASED UPON GOAS READING OF THE WORLD CUP TERRORIST SITUATION, AND IT TAKES INTO CONFIDENTIAL

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CONSIDERATION SEVERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS MADE BY MONTONERO LEADERSHIP AT PRESS CONFERENCES IN MADRID, PARIS AND MEXICO CITY. OF GREATEST INTEREST TO US WAS THE DECLARATION MADE IN MADRID APRIL 8 BY A MONTONERO GROUP THAT INCLUDED BIDEAIN, GELMAN, DAMASO LOPEZ AND VACANAROA. THE GROUP DENIED THE INTENTION EVEN OF DISRUPTING THE GAMES BUT STATED AT THE SAME TIME IT COULD NOT BE HELD RESPONSIBLE FOR "ACTIONS OF (THE MONTONEROS) MILITARY BRANCH."

6. RSO WILL PROVIDE A/SY/CC/TAGS WITH ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONCERNING WORLD CUP SECURITY AS IT BECOMES AVAILABLE. CASTRO

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## Message Attributes

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